SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017 $3

SOUTH FLORIDA
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WEATHER
High: 80
Low: 65
Forecast, 12B

INDEX
Opinion 7A
Lottery 2B
Obituaries...4B
Money 6B

Go!

Wrap it up!

Last chance for pictures with Santa, plus places to go on Christmas. **12B**

BUTCH COMEGYS/AP

MONEY

Last-minute gifts

Bank on beer or tickets to an event if you're in need of one last present. **6B**

SPORTS

Making his mark

Dolphins' Drake has done well in role as featured back. **1C**

Heat-Mavs result

Go to SunSentinel.com/Heat for the score and more.

A Marlin out of water

Second baseman Dee Gordon not quite at home yet in Mariners' outfield. **1C**

Santa by the shore

MIKE STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa and Mrs. Claus — otherwise known as Roray Kam and Victoria Burgess — make their annual "Surfing Santa" appearance Friday off Fort Lauderdale Beach. In 2018, Burgess is going to attempt to set a record as the first woman to paddleboard solo from Cuba to Key West. The trip would cover about 100 miles and take 25 to 30 hours.

Patient: Shots in eyes left me blind

French woman's lawsuit cites stem-cell treatment performed in Broward

By Diane C. Lade | Staff writer

U.S. Stem Cell Clinic in Sunrise — which has been in the spotlight after three women said they lost vision from stem cell injections in their eyes — is the target of another lawsuit.

A fourth patient, Jeannine Mallard, 68, who traveled to South Florida from France for treatments in February 2015, said she suffered a retinal detachment and blindness following eye injections, according to the lawsuit filed in Broward County on Dec. 12.

Unlike the other women, however, Mallard's treatments were not performed at U.S. Stem Cell Clinic. The lawsuit says Dr. Shareen Greenbaum, a Cooper City ophthalmologist, treated Mallard at her Hollywood Eye Institute, using a procedure designed by U.S. Stem Cell Inc. and overseen by one of its executives, Chief Scientific Officer Kristin Comella.

*See **CELLS, 6A***

Tourist bus wreck: 'We missed it by 30 seconds'

Cruise ship passengers recall horror of fatal crash in Mexico

By Anne Geggis | Staff writer

For the Whittens of Jacksonville, being a large family proved fateful: It stopped them from boarding the bus that flipped over along a winding Mexican road, killing 12 people.

Michelle Whitten was traveling with her husband and three kids Tuesday. Had they shown up to catch the bus seconds earlier, there still might have been five empty seats left for them to board, she said. Only four seats were left, so they grabbed the next bus.

"We missed it by 30 seconds," Whitten said, shaking her head.

The Whittens were among thousands of Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas passengers who disembarked Friday morning at Port Everglades. A number of them saw the aftermath of the crash as they rode past in separate buses en route to visit ancient Mayan ruins.

"We saw bodies on the road," Michelle Whitten's husband, John, said. "There was blood everywhere."

Others heard about the deadly crash when the news was announced on the cruise ship's intercom.

Eleven tourists who died were from two

*See **CRASH, 6A***

Tax office fraud case grows to $2.4M

Forged documents allegedly used with employee's help

By Larry Barszewski | Staff writer

Holmes

A scheme run out of Broward County's tax office defrauded property owners of millions of dollars — a much larger amount than first uncovered, authorities say.

The crimes involved forged documents, including some supposedly signed by people who were dead, Broward sheriff's detectives said.

After deputies uncovered a scam that led to five arrests in July, county auditors took a closer look at the tax office books and found an additional $800,000 in questionable payments. That raised the fraud case of stolen funds to $2.4 million, officials said.

*See **FRAUD, 6A***

Trump arrives for holiday at Mar-a-Lago

CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Donald Trump arrived at Palm Beach International Airport on Friday for his winter holiday. He will likely attend Christmas services at a historic Palm Beach church and play some golf. **Story, 1B**

Trump signs tax bill into law

The president continued to pitch the tax package as a win for the middle class, insisting that even though polling indicates the tax cut is unpopular, "the numbers will speak" for themselves. **Story, 2A**

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

U.N. council approves sanctions on N. Korea

The sanctions are a response to Kim Jong-Un's latest launch of a ballistic missile. **Story, 3A**

Video of derailment shows no use of phone

Video from Washington train crash shows that engineer was not on a cellphone. **Story, 6A**

Kim Jong-Un

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